

Message Text

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21

ACTION EB-07

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FM AMEMBASSY BUENOS AIRES

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 2857

UNCLAS BUENOS AIRES 6416

PASS USDA/FAS FOR GRAIN & FEED AND FATS & OILS DIV. FROM AGATT

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: EAGR, AR

SUBJECT: AGRICULTURAL CROP ESTIMATES: WHEAT, BARLEY, SUNFLOWER-
SEED, SOYBEANS.

1. SECRETARY OF AGRICULTURE AND LIVESTOCK'S SECOND ESTIMATE OF 1975-76 WHEAT PLANTINGS IS 5,745,000 HECTARES VERSUS 5,183,000 FOR LAST SEASON FOR AN INCREASE OF 10.8 PERCENT. TRADE SOURCES POINT OUT THAT PLANTINGS WERE LATE DUE TO EXCESSIVE MOISTURE IN CENTRAL REGION AND DRYNESS IN SOUTH, BUT CLAIM THAT SOWING WAS COMPLETED LAST WEEK AND TIMELY RAINS FELL OVER WEEKEND IN SOUTH. CONDITIONS IN PROVINCE OF LA PAMPA ARE PARTICULARLY GOOD AND AREA INCREASED 18.8 PERCENT THERE. IT IS THIS WESTERN PROVINCE THAT CAUSES MAJOR SWINGS IN YEAR TO YEAR PRODUCTION.

2. FIRST ESTIMATE FOR 1975-76 BREWERS BARLEY SEEDINGS IS FOR INCREASE OF 7.3 PERCENT TO AREA OF 450,000 HECTARES AS AGAINST 419,300 LAST SEASON.

3. THIRD OFFICIAL ESTIMATE OF 1974-75 SUNFLOWERSEED PRODUCTION IS 732,000 TONS, A REDUCTION OF 24.5 PERCENT FROM PREVIOUS SEASONS. INDUSTRY TENDS TO AGREE WITH OFFICIAL ESTIMATE.

4. SECOND ESTIMATE FOR 1974-75 SOYBEANS PRODUCTION IS 485,000
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TONS, 2.2 PERCENT LESS THAN 1973-74 LEVEL 496,000 TONS. INDUSTRY

TENDS TO AGREE.

5. GENERAL FEELING EXISTS THAT FARMERS WILL INCREASE CROPS THIS SEASON DUE TO DEPRESSED PRICES FOR CATTLE AND NEED FOR ALTERNATIVE INCOME. MOST SIGNIFICANT INCREASES EXPECTED FOR SUNFLOWER-SEED, SORGHUM AND SOYBEANS, BUT CORN PLANTINGS ALSO TO BE INCREASED. AS SPRING SOWING PERIOD COMMENCE, SOIL MOISTURE CONDITIONS ARE EXCELLENT IN NORTH AND CENTRAL CORN BELT, BUT SOMEWHAT SHORT IN SOUTH, BUT NO LONGER CRITICAL THERE. UNSEASONABLY COLL WEATHER HAS DELAYED CORN PLANTINGS SOMEWHAT.
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